

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8129

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13921

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IN

SUBJ: BREZHNEV GIVES A REPUBLICAN SPEECH

1) THE INDIAN PRESS HAS OCCASIONALLY COMMENTED THIS WEEK THAT BREZHNEV HAS BEEN GOING ABOUT GIVING SPEECHES ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS PARTY. TONIGHT, TO A JOINT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, HE GAVE AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION SUCH AS NEITHER INDIANS OR AMERICANS HAVE HEARD FOR A LONG TIME. EARLY IN HIS HOUR LONG SPEECH HE TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF DETENTE, SPOKE OF DISARMAMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND SUCH, AND THEN OF THE GREAT AND DEFINING EVENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA WHICH HAVE FOLLOWED FROM THE SUMMIT MEETINGS OF 1972 AND 1973. THE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DURING THIS PERIOD WAS MARKED BY REALISM, FORESIGHT, AND A SENSE OF THE WORLD'S NEEDS AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF COLD WAR IN WHICH MORE THAN ONCE THE WORLD WAS ON THE BRINK OF NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION. TODAY IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE POLITICO-MILITARY ELEMENTS

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WHICH OPPOSE DETENTE, BUT THEY WILL NOT SUCCEED. THE SOVIET

UNION IS DETERMINED TO GO FURTHER DOWN THE PATH ON WHICH THE TWO NATIONS HAVE EMBARKED AND IS CONFIDENT THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL DO LIKEWISE.

2) LATER, DISCUSSING THE MIDDLE EAST, HE STATED THAT WERE IT NOT FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR THERE COULD HAVE LEAD TO INTERNATIONAL CONFLAGRATION.

3) THE PARLIAMENTARIANS LISTENED IN CALM TO ALL THIS, AND ONLY REALLY GOT INTERESTED WHEN HE STARTED TELLING THEM WHAT A GREAT COUNTRY INDIA WAS, HOW IT HAS SUPPORTED PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE FROM THE BEGINNING, AT BANDUNG AND IN ITS PANCH SHEEL PRINCIPLES (WHICH WERE SIGNED, BE IT NOTED, WITH CHOU EN-LAI). THE MAIN THRUST OF HIS SPEECH WAS IN FAVOR OF HIS ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY. I WOULD JUDGE FROM THIS THAT HE HASN'T GOT THAT FAR IN HIS TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT EQUALLY THAT HE IS NOT GIVING UP. THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO CHINA, SAVE POSSIBLY AS THE PARTY THAT DOES NOT WANT TO RECOGNIZE INDIA'S PREEMINENCE IN SOUTH ASIA. (IT COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE REFERRED TO US.)

4) THE SPEECH WAS HARDLY WITHOUT DENUNCIATION OF COLONIALIST IMPERIALIST RACIALISTS, BUT AT WHAT SEEMED TO ME A RITUAL LEVEL. I WOULD JUDGE FROM IT THAT HE HADN'T MUCH TO GIVE TO INDIA THIS TRIP, AND HASN'T PROMISED MUCH. BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL POINT HE MADE, AND WITH SOME SUCCESS I SHOULD THINK, IS THAT OF THE TWO GREAT POWERS OF THE WORLD, ONE OF THEM VERY MUCH VALUES AND DESIRES INDIA'S FRIENDSHIP AND ALLEGIANCE TO VAGUELY COMMON SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES. THE ONLY SPECIFIC INDIAN CAUSE -- AND WE ARE NOT SURE JUST HOW MUCH IT IS THEIR CAUSE -- HE ENDORSED WAS THE PROPOSAL FOR AN INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE. THE SOVIETS HAVE UNTIL NOW BEEN AS RELUCTANT ABOUT THIS AS WE HAVE.

5) NOTE I AM WRITING FROM MEMORY, AND NOT FROM A TEXT.

MOYNIHAN

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